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FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Report of the Fifth Committee (Part II)

Rapporteur: Mr. Djamel MOKTEFI (Algeria)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The previous recommendation made by the Fifth Committee to the General Assembly under agenda item 138 appears in the report of the Committee contained in document A/52/690.

2. The Fifth Committee resumed its consideration of the item at its 62nd, 63rd, 68th and resumed 68th meetings, on 18 and 29 May and 26 June 1998. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/52/SR.62, 63, 68 and 68/Add.1).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the reports of the Secretary-General (A/52/708 and Corr.1 and A/52/786) and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/52/860/Add.3).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.5/52/L.47

4. At the 68th meeting, on 29 May, the representative of Uganda and coordinator of the informal consultations on item 138, on behalf of the Chairman, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina" (A/C.5/52/L.47) and orally revised it as follows:

(a) Footnote 2, which had read "A/52/860 and Add.3", was replaced by "A/52/860/Add.3";

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(b) A new paragraph was inserted after operative paragraph 5, reading:

"6. Decides to examine the recommendation of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for 5 per cent across-the-board reductions of the budget proposals of the Secretary-General in the light of the next series of relevant financial performance reports;"

and the remaining paragraphs were renumbered accordingly;

(c) In operative paragraph 8 (former paragraph 6 bis), the square brackets around the paragraph and the words "operational and substantive" before the word "requirements" were deleted;

(d) In operative paragraph 9 (former paragraph 7), the words, in square brackets, "and the amount of _____ dollars for the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi" were deleted after the words "support account for peacekeeping operations".

5. At its 68th meeting, on 29 May and 26 June, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/52/L.47, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 6).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Financing of the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina

The General Assembly,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina[1] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

Recalling Security Council resolutions 1035 (1995) of 21 December 1995, by which the Council established the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina for an initial period of one year, and 1144 (1997) of 19 December 1997, by which the Council extended the mandate of the Mission until 21 June 1998,

Recalling also Security Council resolution 1147 (1998) of 13 January 1998, in which the Council authorized the United Nations military observers to continue to monitor the demilitarization of the Prevlaka peninsula until 15 July 1998,

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[1] A/52/708 and Corr.1 and A/52/786.

[2] A/52/860/Add.3.

Recalling further its decision 50/481 of 11 April 1996 on the financing of the Mission and its subsequent resolutions and decision thereon, the latest of which was decision 52/437 of 18 December 1997,

Reaffirming that the costs of the Mission are expenses of the Organization to be borne by Member States in accordance with Article 17, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling its previous decisions regarding the fact that, in order to meet the expenditures caused by the Mission, a different procedure is required from that applied to meet expenditures of the regular budget of the United Nations,

Taking into account the fact that the economically more developed countries are in a position to make relatively larger contributions and that the economically less developed countries have a relatively limited capacity to contribute towards such an operation,

Bearing in mind the special responsibilities of the States permanent members of the Security Council, as indicated in General Assembly resolution 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, in the financing of such operations,

Noting with appreciation that voluntary contributions have been made to the Mission,

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Mission with the necessary financial resources to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

1. Takes note of the status of contributions to the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina as at 15 May 1998, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 66.6 million United States dollars, representing 19 per cent of the total assessed contributions from the inception of the Mission to the period ending 21 June 1998, notes that some 19 per cent of the Member States have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States concerned, in particular those in arrears, to ensure the payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

2. Expresses concern about the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursement of troop contributors, which bear additional burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

3. Expresses its appreciation to those Member States which have paid their assessed contributions in full;

4. Urges all other Member States to make every possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the Mission in full and on time;

5. Takes note of the observations and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[1]

6. Decides to examine the recommendation of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for 5 per cent across-the-board reductions of the budget proposals of the Secretary-General in the light of the next series of relevant financial performance reports;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to take all necessary action to ensure that the Mission is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

8. Also requests the Secretary-General, in order to reduce the cost of employing General Service staff, to continue efforts to employ locally recruited staff for the Mission against General Service posts, commensurate with the requirements of the Mission;

9. Decides to appropriate to the Special Account for the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina the amount of 189,483,720 dollars gross (179,593,320 dollars net) for the maintenance of the Mission for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999, inclusive of the amount of 9,483,720 dollars for the support account for peacekeeping operations, to be apportioned, as an ad hoc arrangement, among Member States at a monthly rate of 15,790,310 dollars gross (14,966,110 dollars net) in accordance with the composition of groups set out in paragraphs 3 and 4 of General Assembly resolution 43/232 of 1 March 1989, as adjusted by the Assembly in its resolutions 44/192 B of 21 December 1989, 45/269 of 27 August 1991, 46/198 A of 20 December 1991, 47/218 A of 23 December 1992, 49/249 A of 20 July 1995, 49/249 B of 14 September 1995, 50/224 of 11 April 1996, 51/218 A, B and C of 18 December 1996 and 52/230 of 31 March 1998 and its decisions 48/472 A of 23 December 1993 and 50/451 B and 50/471 A of 23 December 1995, and taking into account the scale of assessments for the years 1998 and 1999, as set out in its resolution 52/215 A of 22 December 1997, subject to the decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Mission beyond 21 June 1998;

10. Decides also that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 9 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of the estimated staff assessment income of 9,890,400 dollars approved for the Mission for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999;

11. Decides further that, for Member States that have fulfilled their financial obligations to the Mission, there shall be set off against the apportionment, as provided for in paragraph 9 above, their respective share of the unencumbered balance of 33,031,700 dollars gross (30,731,700 dollars net) in respect of the period ending 30 June 1997;

12. Decides that, for Member States that have not fulfilled their financial obligations to the Mission, their share of the unencumbered balance of 33,031,700 dollars gross (30,731,700 dollars net) for the period ending 30 June 1997 shall be set off against their outstanding obligations;

13. Invites voluntary contributions to the Mission in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be

administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure and practices established by the General Assembly;

14. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-third session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina".